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MADRAS WAR REVIEW

A WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE WORLD WAR

VOL. V FRIDAY, JANUARY 21, 1944 No. 20

THE object of the present operations in Italy is to capture Rome. The Allies will be in Rome in the Spring ℭ I am always optimistic. We have reached the culminating decisive period of the war ℭ If we saw an opportunity for landings in South France, we most certainly would do so. Don't at all rule out the possibility of bringing off a coup there in the coming year

GENERAL SIR HENRY MAITLAND WILSON

Supreme Allied Commander in the Mediterranean, at a Press Conference in Algiers on Monday (January 17)

Will be in ROME in Spring

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NOTE.—*The summary of news and comments contained in the* MADRAS WAR REVIEW *generally relate to events and statements published till Wednesday, every week.*]

DIFFICULT OPERATIONS AHEAD

"Until we have actually occupied Berlin and Tokyo we cannot indulge for a moment in the pleasant day-dreaming that the war is almost over. Our most difficult military operations are ahead of us—not behind us."

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT *on Wednesday, January* 19.

◆

VICTORY WILL BE COSTLY

"A quick ending of the war is unlikely. Those who wishfully think for an early end are necessarily doing disservice to the war effort. There is no ground for the hope that the German home front will collapse.

"Victory will take time and will be costly. We have just begun to break down the Japanese outer defences. But it would be an error to ascribe this to fear. It just does not suit Japanese purpose to challenge us in force at present."

COL. F. KNOX, *United States Navy Secretary, at Cleveland on Friday, January* 14.

◆

RUSSIAN BRAVERY

"I have worked closely with Soviet officials here for over three years and I have nothing but admiration for the bravery, resourcefulness and determination of the people of the Soviet Union. I feel we have everything to gain and nothing to lose from continuing close co-operation between the Soviet Union and the United States both now and after the war."

MR. EDWARD J. STETTINIUS, *United States Under-Secretary of State, on Saturday, January* 15.

◆

ASSURANCE FOR THE FUTURE

"The Russians are removing some of the worst stains from the face of this earth by stringing up the ring leaders of hate, and letting them hang until they are dead. That is a final assurance of the future for free men."

MR. HENRY MORGENTHAU, *the United States Secretary of the Treasury, on the Kharkov executions, on Monday, January 17.*

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SOVIET STRATEGY ON LENINGRAD FRONT

"ALL quiet on the Leningrad Front" seemed to sum up the situation in the Northern Sector in Russia for the last one year. It was on January 18, 1943, that the siege of the City of Lenin was raised. It was then that the Red Army troops of the Leningrad and Volkhov Fronts joined hands and drove the Germans back. And exactly after a year to the day (January 18, 1944), Marshal Stalin has announced the opening of a great offensive on the Leningrad Front. It is a double offensive, and strong German defences have been smashed in the opening round. The Rus-ians will be celebrating to-day (January 21) not only the twenty-first anniversary of the passing of Lenin, but the recent successes on the Leningrad Front as well.

THE Soviet offensive north of Lake Ilmen and south of Oranienbaum, a fortress on the shores of the Gulf of Finland, has created breaches in the strongly-fortified enemy defence lines which were constructed over a long period, and the offensive on the Volkhov Front, north of Novgorod, and 100 miles south of Leningrad, has also met with similar success. Earlier, the Red Army broke through the enemy defences north of Novo Sokolniki, and occupied the railway station of Natva.

NOVO SOKOLNIKI is at the southern end of the Northern Russian Front, and is 25 miles north of Nevel and 10 miles west of Velikiye Luki (both of which are in Russian hands) and 70 miles east of the Latvian border. The importance of the Red Army's advance here lies in the fact that it has cut the railway line between Novo Sokolniki and the Don junction, 100 miles further north, and thereby made the Germans lose one rail route to the Leningrad Sector.

Nevel-Vitebsk-Polotsk triangle

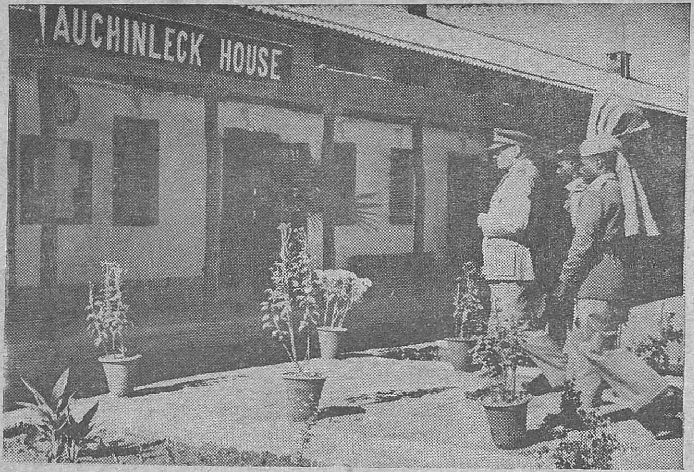
THE double offensive in the Northern Sector is as yet in its initial stage, but it deserves to be studied in its proper setting. When we look at the map of this Sector, we see Nevel, Vitebsk and Polotsk three great fortresses, forming a strategic triangle of great importance. The apex of the triangle is Polotsk, only 20 miles from the old Polish frontier. Of these, Nevel is in Russian hands and Vitebsk in the steady process of being encircled. The Red Army is gradually pushing westwards towards Polotsk and north-westwards from Nevel along the main line from Moscow to Riga. If this move succeeds, it will drive a wedge between the German centre and the northern wing.

WHAT will the German forces in the north do as their right flank is in danger? Will they carry out a large-scale withdrawal from the Leningrad zone back to where they started? Will they retreat to Narva on the coast of the Gulf of Finland and Pskov, south of Lake Peipus, both on the Estonian border? And from there, will they eventually go back further west to Riga in Latvia? It is tempting to visualize before us such a picture, but it is perhaps too optimistic at this stage of the offensive. For we must remember, first, that the German troops in the north have been in their present positions for quite a long time and must have made themselves thoroughly comfortable in deep dug-outs and heavily protected fortresses. It is easier for them to fight where they are and make a determined stand than to face moving warfare in the biting cold of the Russian winter, across the open country.

The "Leningrad bulge"

SECONDLY, from what we see from events in the Southern Sector, the policy of the German High Command seems to be to make their generals hang on to every square mile of territory till the very last. It may therefore be expected that the Germans would form a strong "bolt" position in the region of Lake Peipus and try to maintain the "Leningrad bulge," as against the Russians who might strike north-west with a view to closing the corridor by cutting through to the Baltic.

A FEW days ago, Sertorious, the German military commentator, referred to events on the Southern Sector and said that they "must not lead to under-estimation of the enemy's pressure in the Vitebsk area, and the consequences which may follow an enemy break-through." But, he added, "threat to, or destruction of, military and economic positions in the Balkans is perhaps more appealing to the Russian Command than a break-through towards the Baltic." This gives an inkling as to what the Germans wish should happen, but Russian strategy, it is well known, does not follow the principle of one-thing-at-a-time and that-done well, but that of many-things-at-the-same-time and everything-done-well.



COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF'S VISIT TO JHELUM.—During his recent visit to Jhelum, General Sir Claude Auchinleck visited an Indian Military Hospital witnessed the "toughening up" battle training at the 1st Punjab Regimental Centre, presented Colours to the Boys' Battalion at a special parade, opened a new block of buildings—"Auchinleck House,"—at King George's Royal Indian Military School, and presented the annual prizes for the school. Photo shows the Commander-in-Chief about to enter "Auchinleck House." He was shown round by the head boy.

RUNNING COMMENTARY

Poland's Eastern Frontier—Polish View and Russian Attitude

The question of Poland's eastern frontier after the war is the subject-matter of a good deal of controversy. British public opinion has been more or less reflected in the views expressed by VERNON BARTLETT in the *News Chronicle*. "If the present Polish Government wants to return to Poland after the war," he says, "it would be well advised to recognize that it will only be able to do so by agreement with the Soviet Government, whose troops have the main responsibility of freeing Polish territory of the Germans . . . On the other side, the Soviet Government has to remember that genuine co-operation after the war with the British and Americans would be far more important to the security of the Soviet Union as well as to the maintenance of world peace than any concessions that may be squeezed out of the Poles."

The ball was set in motion by a statement issued by the Polish Emigre Government in London two weeks ago (January 5). In that statement, the Polish Government referred to the situation created by the crossing of the 1939 Russo-Polish frontier by the advance of Soviet troops and said that they expected that the Soviet Union would not fail to respect the rights and interests of the Polish Republic and its citizens.

This brought forth a statement from Moscow clarifying the position. An official Soviet statement broadcast by the Moscow Radio on January 10 described the Polish Government's declaration on the Soviet-Polish border as an "erroneous" one. The statement said that the Soviet constitution had determined the Soviet-Polish border with the assent of the population of Western Ukraine and of Western Byelo-Russia as expressed in a plebiscite carried out in 1939 on a broad democratic basis.

As a result of this plebiscite, the territories of Western Ukraine which had an overwhelming majority of Ukrainians and the territories of Western Byelo-Russia, in which Byelo-Russians formed an overwhelming majority of the population, were included in the Soviet Union. This did not infringe Polish interests. On the other hand, it created a solid basis of firm and lasting friendship between the Polish people and the neighbouring Ukrainian, Byelo-Russian and Russian peoples.

* * *

A Strong and Independent Poland with the Curzon Line as Frontier—Soviet Offer

Referring to the possibility of the restoration of Poland as a strong and independent State as a result of the successes of Soviet troops in liberating the occupied territories, the Moscow statement said:

"Poland must not be restored by way of annexation of Ukrainian and Byelo-Russian territories, but by return to Poland of territories appropriated by the Germans . . . The Soviet Union does not consider the 1939 frontier as immovable. Modifications can be introduced, which would be to the benefit of Poland in order that the region in which Polish population predominates may be handed over to Poland. In such a case, the Russo-Polish frontier would approximately pass along the so-called Curzon Line, accepted in 1919 by the Supreme Council of Allied Powers. This line provides for the inclusion of Western Ukraine and Byelo-Russia in the Soviet Union. The Western borders of Poland must be restored by way of return to Poland of Polish lands which have been seized by Germany and without which it would be impossible to include all Polish people in their country which would thereby obtain an opening to the Baltic Sea."

The Moscow statement added that, in the meantime, the interests of Poland and Russia lay in the establishment of firm relations of friendship between the Polish-Soviet peoples united in struggle against the common foe.

* * *

Three Russo-Polish Frontier Lines—Polish Government's Case

It is of some interest to examine the historical background of the Russo-Polish frontier question, not only because it is a wartime problem, but also because it involves the question of settlement of frontier disputes by determining the racial affinities and loyalties of the peoples inhabiting the areas concerned. It may be stated that there are roughly three different Russo-Polish frontier lines, viz., the Riga Line which was

settled after the Treaty of Riga of March 18, 1921, and which was the frontier line before the war broke out; the "Curzon Provisional Boundary Line;" and the Ribbontrop-Molotov Line of October 1939.

The contention of the Polish Government is that the 1939 frontier must be restored. But the Soviet Government want the Russo-Polish frontier after the war to approximately conform to the Curzon Line. The 1939 frontier, which is the Riga Line, runs from the river Dwina on the Russo-Latvian border almost due south down to the Zbruez which it followed to its junction with the Dniester. This frontier was shifted to a distance of about 150 to 200 miles further west by the Ribbontrop-Molotov Line. Poland seems to contend that the Riga Line is juridically binding on Russia because the Treaty of Riga was concluded between Poland and Russia, as free and independent parties in 1921. In 1923 Polish rule in Eastern Galicia was also recognized by the Allies. After Germany invaded Russia, the Soviet Government entered into a treaty with the Polish Emigre Government in London, in which it recognized that the Soviet-German Treaties of 1939 concerning territorial changes in Poland had lost their validity.

When this treaty was signed in 1941, an assurance was given by the British Government to the Poles that they did not recognize any territorial changes in Poland after August 1939, that is, after the German invasion.

* * *

The Soviet Attitude— Case for the Curzon Line

As regards the Russian attitude, it seems to depend on the fact that the Treaty of Riga was thrust upon the Soviet Union by a militant and victorious Poland and that the Treaty itself did not pretend to establish a scientific or final frontier and had as much, or as little, validity as any treaty made in such circumstances. Further, the Allied recognition of the Treaty of Riga was conditional upon a grant of full cultural autonomy to the Ukrainians—a condition which was not fulfilled by Poland.

It may be recalled that the Curzon Note which drew up a Russo-Polish frontier followed as far as possible the line of demarcation between Poles on the one hand and White Russians and Ukrainians on the other, whom it gave to the Soviet Union. This Curzon Line which the Allies favoured would give the Soviet Union a frontier virtually the same as the Ribbontrop-Molotov Line of 1939.

His Highness THE MAHARAJA OF BIKANER IN THE MIDDLE EAST.—Photo shows *the Maharaja inspecting tanks in the Middle East.*

As for the Polish claim that the Russians had denounced in 1941 the Soviet-German Treaty of 1939 and therefore they were bound to accept the pre-war frontier, it may be stated that there was no explicit mention in the Soviet-Polish Treaty of 1941 that the Soviet Union would give up her claims for what she had acquired as her share of partition. What the Russians refused to recognize was only the German share of partition. The British Government have no doubt given an assurance to the Poles not to recognize the territorial changes made after the German invasion, but this does not mean that possibilities of a new arrangement had been completely ruled out. The Russian attitude emphasises the fact that the Atlantic Charter promised to give the peoples of Europe a Government of their own choosing.

* * *

Ukrainians and Russians— The 1921 Polish Census and the 1939 Soviet Plebiscite

Even in 1939 the Russians incorporated the Polish Ukraine into the Soviet Union only as a result of the plebiscite. The plebiscite clearly showed that a large majority of the population, namely, Ukrainians and Russians, wanted to be in the Soviet Union. Many years earlier, that is, after the Polish border was fixed by the Treaty of Riga in 1921, Poland had conducted a census of the population in the disputed territory. The result of the census showed the population as roughly 46 per cent Poles, 23 White Russians, 17 Ukrainians and 10 Jews. The percentage of Poles was further lowered by the drift of the population towards Western Poland before 1939. The Poles were largely big land-owners, but the Russians and Ukrainians were stated to be practically in the position of serfs. After the German occupation of Poland the Jews who formed the middle class were practically exterminated and a large proportion of the Poles was deported to work in Germany. Thus the present position seems to be in favour of an overwhelming majority of the population being Russians and Ukrainians.

It is this important point that is likely to weigh considerably in any settlement of the Russo-Polish dispute, as it is not by legalistic arguments alone that such a matter could be decided. A pertinent question is: what do the Polish Ukrainians themselves think about this whole controversy? In 1921 when the Treaty of Riga drew up the frontier line, neither the Poles nor the Russians consulted their wishes. But the Russians can claim that in 1939 they carried out a plebiscite in which the Polish Ukrainians voted for a union with their brethren in the Soviet or Eastern

Ukraine who were racially, economically and culturally akin to them. In this connexion, a glance at the history of the Ukrainian people may help us to find out where their sympathies are likely to be in the Russo-Polish controversy.

* * *

History of the Ukraine—Racial and Cultural Clashes

The whole area of the present Ukraine was part of the Polish-Lithuanian Empire till the year 1667, when the Treaty of Andrussova split it into two, the portion of the Ukraine east of the Dnieper going to Russia and the other going to Poland. The Treaty marked the end of varied fighting between the two countries on religious and economic grounds. The religious ground was the Polish attempt to convert forcibly the Orthodox Ukrainians to Roman Catholicism, and the economic ground was that Ukrainians were reduced to serfdom. There was a revolt against this state of things in 1654, when the Cossack-Ukrainian Chieftain, BOGDAN CHMELNICKI, voluntarily placed himself and his people under the suzerainty of the Czar of Russia. Fighting went on between Russia and Poland, and 13 years afterwards the Treaty of Andrussova, mentioned above, was concluded. Russia got the Ukraine east of the Dnieper then, and the rest of it in 1793 at the end of the Second Partition.

Did the Ukrainians who had little love for the Poles, lead a peaceful and contented life under the Russian rule? No, they were reduced to the position of serfs under Peter the Great and Catherine the Great. They did not like it. Therefore they organized a national movement not only in Russia, but also in Poland, with a view to having a separate national existence of their own. In 1917 the Revolution came, and Russia became a Bolshevik state. By the decree of December 17, 1917, she gave freedom to the Ukraine, which voluntarily federated itself with the new Soviet Union.

In 1918 the Ukraine was occupied by the Germans. After Germany's collapse, Poland seized Western Ukraine. Then came the war between Russia and Poland, and ultimately the Treaty of Riga in 1921.

Thus it will be seen that Western Ukraine would have chosen to remain independent, if not join the Soviet Union with which it had racial and cultural affinities, had it not been

General Eisenhower who has now assumed his duties as Supreme Allied Commander told war correspondents in London on Monday (January 17) that he highly appreciated all the groundwork which had already been done for the assault in the West, including the destruction of the Scharnhorst. *The above is a radio picture of the gun crew of the* Duke of York, *who shelled and sank the 26,000-ton German battleship on December 26 off the North Cape. The crew are standing under the ship's 14-inch guns which spelt the doom of one of the most famous German battleships.*

'THANKS!'

CHRISTMAS ACKNOWLEDGMENTS TO MADRAS JOINT WAR CHARITIES COMMITTEE

The following is a copy of the letter received by Airmail from the Commissioner for Middle East Indian Red Cross:—

"I am writing to acknowledge the gift of 6,720 cartons of sweets which has been so generously made by the Madras War Committee to this Organization. I would be much obliged if you would kindly convey our most grateful thanks.

The sweets have arrived in perfect condition and perfectly packed and in good time for distribution at Xmas to the sick and wounded patients by whom they will be greatly appreciated."

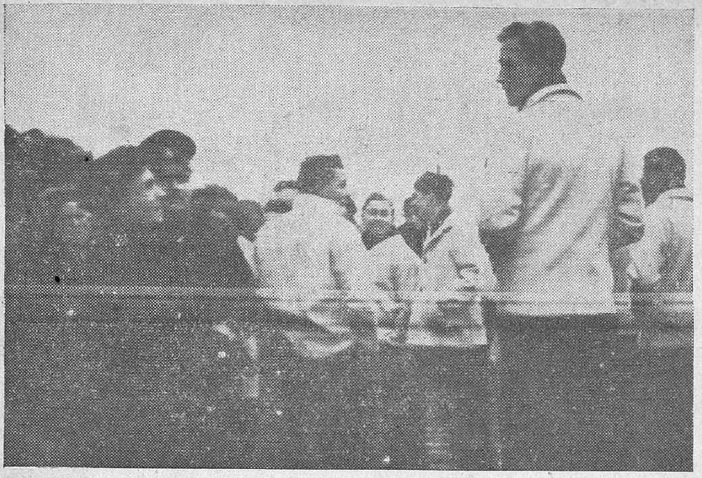
* * * * *

The following is a copy of the letter received by Airmail from the Red Cross Commissioner for India in Iraq-Iran:—

"May I express my grateful thanks for the 12,000 cartons of sweets which the Madras Joint War Charities Committee has so kindly presented as Xmas gifts for the patients in hospitals in Paiforce.

All the parcels of Xmas gifts have been packed and sent out to the various hospitals.

It is a real joy to see how our patients appreciate whatever we can do for them at Xmas time."



The Scharnhorst *was built in* 1936. *She was armed with nine* 11-*inch guns, twelve* 5·9-*inch guns and many smaller guns, and had a normal crew of* 1,461. The above radio picture shows *survivors of the* Scharnhorst *under guard on the catapult deck of the* Duke of York.

PATIENCE

(*By* R.G.)

Patience !—Though slow and very slow
The armies seem to move in to the kill,
Patience !—Believe the leaders know
The ways to gain the nations' will.

All night and every night will wait
The hunter till the tiger comes below.
All day and every day his bait
The fisherman will set, and throw and throw.

Stalking across the moor his stag
Long hours behind a rock the sportsman waits,
As waits a wooer though hours lag,
And sailors watch the tides in perilous straits.

Drum on the table as you read
Of checks and shocks and winter lines unbreached.
But think—there patient soldiers bleed
And patient bones lie in the desert bleached.

Long months they lie in leaking tents
Or out on open plains before the word
Comes clear " Attack ! " and through the rents
Torn by the guns pour second wave and third.

With patience storms of sand and snow
Are borne, and muddy bivouac, and pain.
You think the campaign's progress slow ?
Recall the hours you waste, and think again.

Though to the eye there's no advance,
Yet as when wrestlers lock and hardly move
Till suddenly there comes the chance
The skilful one awaits, his skill to prove,

So now the desperate desire
Of millions bent on freedom is but stayed
A little while—The blackguards tire
And, seeing this ruthless patience, are afraid.

forcibly annexed by Poland. *Prima facie* Western Ukraine must be assumed to have accepted Polish rule with reluctance.

As regards the vote of the Polish-Ukraine in favour of Union in Soviet Russia in 1939 it may be asked whether it was not true that the Red Army was in possession and that the Ukrainians had therefore no other option than to vote for the Union. But it must be pointed out that whatever influence that fact might have had, there were undoubtedly many other considerations which made the Ukrainians vote in the way they did. They had before them the glaring contrast of the lot of the Ukrainians under Polish rule and under Soviet rule.

* * *

Ukrainians under Polish and Soviet Rule—A Comparison In 1920 the total number of Ukrainian schools in the Western Ukraine had risen to 3,602, but under Polish rule they were reduced to 1,074 in 1925. Things became worse as time passed. In 1932, according to official Polish figures, there were only 804 purely Ukrainian schools. Only seven of them were Government-supported, and there were 15 private secondary schools for a population of 5 million Ukrainians ? The Polish Ukrainians joined the Soviet Union in 1939, and in 1940, there were 6,791 primary schools in Western Ukraine. Five thousand five hundred and ninety-six of them were Ukrainian, 922 Polish, 131 Jewish, 40 Czech, 9 German and 30 mixed schools.

A few figures relating to the Ukrainians who were already in the Soviet Union may also be of some interest. In 1933 more than one-sixth of the total population in the White Russian and Ukrainian republics within the Soviet Union were pupils in the primary and secondary schools, and more than one per cent were pupils in the schools and universities. A significant feature of this education in Soviet Russia is the fact that all of them were instructed in their native languages.

When it is remembered that in 1930 when the Ukrainian peasants revolted against the Polish rule and were rigorously repressed and whole villages converted from Orthodoxy to Roman Catholicism, there is no wonder that when the Red Army entered Polish-Ukraine in 1939, they were welcomed as liberators.

The point that emerges as a result of the consideration of all this past history of the Ukraine is that if the

principles of racial division and cultural affinity are to be taken into account the territories occupied by Russia in 1939 are overwhelmingly populated by non-Poles who have more in common with the population of the western territories of the Soviet Union than with the Poles. From the economic point of view also, it may be stated that the territories occupied by the Red Army in 1939 are not so very essential to Poland's future development.

Taking into account all these factors there seems to be a good deal to be said in favour of the Soviet offer to Poland proposing the Curzon Line as its frontier. Referring to the offer WILLIAM SHIRER, the noted American radio commentator says:

> "It seems like a very fair offer to the Poles. Although the Germans will be furious to lose East Prussia, their wholesale annexation of territories in this war and their treatment of subject peoples, especially the Poles, has lost them any sympathy. The arrangement gives Poland wide access to the Baltic and should do away for a long time with the friction that arose between Poles and the Germans over the Polish corridor."

* * *

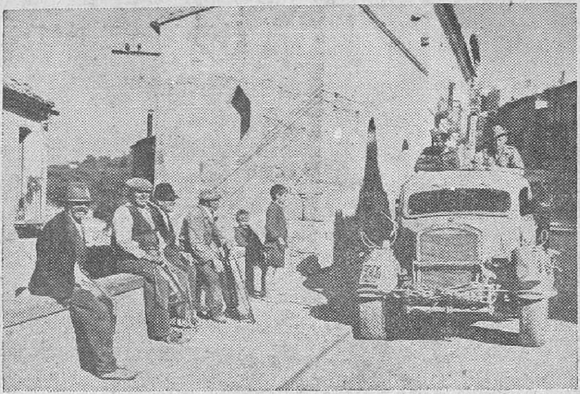
Controversy enters acute stage—Polish statement and Soviet reply—United State's offer

Now the controversy over the frontier question seems to have assumed a more acute stage. On Saturday (January 15), the Polish Government issued a statement taking cognizance of the declaration of the Soviet Government contained in the Tass *Communique* of January 11, which was issued as a reply to the declaration of the Polish Government on January 5. The Polish statement says:

> "While the Polish Government cannot recognize unilateral decisions or accomplished facts which have taken place, or might take place, on the territory of the Polish Republic, they have repeatedly expressed their sincere desire for a Polish-Soviet Agreement on terms which would be just and acceptable to both sides."

For this purpose, they have suggested the opening of negotiations between the Polish and Soviet Governments with the help of British and American Governments. To this declaration, an authorized reply has been issued on behalf of the Soviet Union on Monday (January 17). The reply says that the Polish declaration entirely evades and ignores the question of recognition of the Curzon Line as the Polish Soviet frontier and that it can only be interpreted as a rejection of the Soviet offer. As regards the suggestion for the opening of official negotiations, the Soviet Government state that they are not in a position to enter into official negotiations with a Government with which diplomatic relations have been broken.

It is at this stage that the United States has offered to mediate between Poland and Russia. It is likely that there will be an exchange of views between London, and Washington and Moscow before any further development of the Soviet-Polish situation. One fact, however, is clearly recognized by all parties and that is that, in the words of the *London Times*, "neither Russia nor Poland can prudently allow the differences between them to override their supreme common interest in presenting a solid barrier of resistance to the traditional German *drang nach osten* (drive to the east)." It is to be hoped that some way would be found by which the frontier question would be settled amicably.

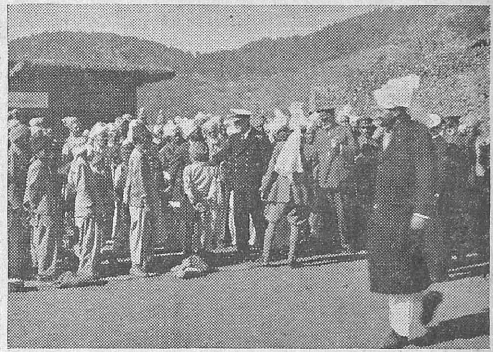


INDIAN TROOPS ADVANCING IN ITALY.—As the Indian troops advance in Italy, the German rear-guard falls back. Then the great task of moving up supplies begins. Old and young Italian villagers watch Indian troops arrive. Even the oldest inhabitants have never seen so much transport.

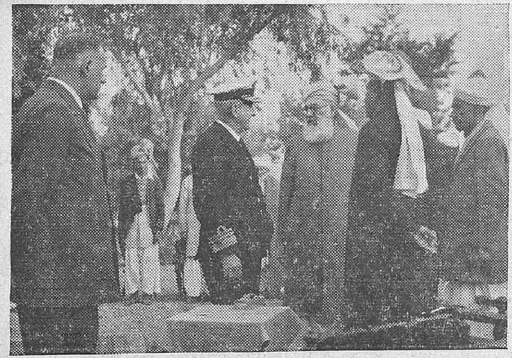
INDIAN ARMY NURSES IN ITALY.—Group photograph of the four nursing Sisters serving with the Indian Division in Italy. (Reading from left to right) *Sisters, Ivy Edmonds of Bombay, Joyce Dady of Rawalpindi, Barbara Vickers of Bombay and Margaret Flynn of Lucknow.*

INDIA'S NAVY CHIEF TOURS VILLAGES IN THE PUNJAB

Admiral Godfrey being introduced to local notables at Shadi Khan.

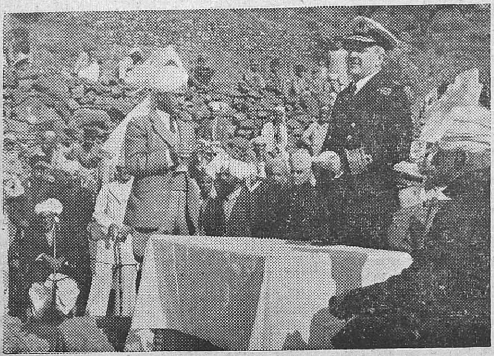


The Admiral meets and chats with the people of Bagla.



Admiral Godfrey meets Khan Bahadur Mullick Mohd. Amin the "Grand Old Man" of Shamsabad.

Admiral Godfrey being introduced to village notables at Bagla.



The Admiral replies to the address of welcome at Bagla.

Admiral Godfrey says farewell to Hon. Captain Ajaib Khan (left) *on leaving Shadi Khan.*

VLADIMIR LENIN, FOUNDER OF THE SOVIET STATE

[The following articles have been specially contributed to commemorate the twentieth death anniversary of Lenin, which falls to-day (January 21, 1944).]

IMMORTAL CONTRIBUTION TO SOCIAL SCIENCES

By N. SIDOROV, *President of the Central Union of Co-operative Societies, U.S.S.R.*

VLADIMIR LENIN scientist and statesman, made an immortal contribution to social sciences by solving a number of complex problems in economics and politics. He also devoted his attention to the question of co-operation. It was he that advanced the brilliant plan of enlisting peasants in the work of building up socialism through co-operation.

In his article, "On Co-operation," published in 1923 he said, "We must realize and give practical effect to it that the social system, which must now be supported above all else, is: a co-operative system. However, it is not any sort of co-operative trade which we must support, but that in which real masses of population share."

Here were clearly expressed those broad democratic principles on which Soviet co-operative societies were to be organized and administered.

The underlying idea of Lenin's plan for enlisting peasants in the work of building socialism was that co-operation in general, and agricultural co-operation in particular, was the way most comprehensible and acceptable to millions of peasants by which they could pass to large-scale co-operative producing associations or collective farms.

The process of the development of peasant farming, as Lenin conceived it, was that small, inefficient and unprofitable individual peasant farms should gradually unite into large co-operative agricultural enterprises.

Lenin considered that the development of agriculture in the Soviet State should proceed along the lines of gradual introduction of principles of collectivism. He also pointed to the necessity of promoting co-operative production to the utmost as a means of increasing the supply to peasants of consumers' goods which did not involve bringing in of raw materials from a far or the erection of large industrial plants.

Lenin also devoted much attention to the question of consumers' co-operatives on the subject of which he signed the Government decree of April 11th, 1918. In connexion with this decree Lenin wrote that the machinery of consumers' co-operative societies, which already possessed considerable experience and, what was more important, were based on the self-activity of masses, must be utilized and directed upwards towards the solution of one of the cardinal problems—namely, a proper organization of supply and distribution of goods. Lenin held that it was important to enlist the rank and file in the performance of these functions, and that there were elements among masses that might display an immense capacity in this field. He stressed the fact that co-operative trade was no easy matter, and that it was necessary to learn not only how to trade, but also how to trade efficiently. He, therefore, insisted that those who were entrusted with the administration of co-operative affairs should persistently learn how to trade and become civilized co-operators.

GREAT CO-OPERATIVE PLAN

Lenin's untimely death prevented him from personally carrying into practice his great co-operative plan. This was accomplished by his successor, Stalin. Stalin continued theoretical analysis of problems relating to co-operation and guided the work of putting it into practical effect.

Co-operation first took root in the sale by peasants of their agricultural produce. Besides loan and consumers' co-operatives there began to arise, at the initiative of peasants, co-operatives for various branches of agriculture: such as flax growers' societies, potato growers' societies, milk producers' societies, etc. These societies supplied peasants with seed, implements and machinery; they then purchased the produce of these peasants and sold it on a wholesale basis in the market—peasants sharing in the profits. In this way, they linked peasant farming with the State industry.

The spread of co-operative societies in the field—sale of produce, supply of implements and consumers' goods coupled with loan and consumers' societies—these paved the way for the rise of peasant producing co-operatives or collective-farms.

The adoption of collective-farming was prompted by peasants' own interest, for an even more pooling of available implements of production and draught animals insured to them a far larger income than small-scale individual tillage. The development of large-scale State industry made it possible to supply big aggregated farms with tractors and other agricultural machines.

The consolidation of the collective-farm system was substantially furthered by the adoption of model collective-farm statutes at the second Congress of Collective-Farm Stock Workers in February, 1935; and by the assignment to collective-farms by Government of the deed of land they cultivated for perpetual use.

The triumph of the collective-farm system led to a rise in the prosperity of peasants and hence to increase in their demands. This, in its turn, imposed new demands on the consumers' co-operative societies. A ramified network of stores, restaurants and dining rooms was developed by co-operative societies in rural districts; their turnover increased from year to year; while the quality and the assessment of goods sold in the rural stores approximated more and more to urban standards.

In 1939, revised model statutes were adopted by rural consumers' societies in which great stress was laid on the principle of broad democracy in their administration and operation.

Co-operative societies became one of the largest public mass organizations in the Soviet Union and this circumstance was reflected in the new Soviet Constitution. Article 126 of the Constitution states that the citizens of the U.S.S.R. are guaranteed the right to form public organizations including co-operative associations, while Article 141 includes co-operative societies among the public bodies which have a right to nominate candidates to the Soviets of working peoples deputies.

The present war against the Fascist hordes has necessitated the placing of the whole economy of the country at the service of the armed forces. In this the co-operative societies are playing an immense part.

THE COLLECTIVE-FARM SYSTEM

The collective-farm peasants are working with supreme effort and success to supply the Red Army with food and industries with cotton, flax and other raw materials.

In the speech he made on November 6th, 1943, in connexion with the twenty-sixth anniversary of the October Revolution, Stalin said that, although the Soviet Union had been temporarily deprived of important agricultural areas in the Ukraine, Don and the Kuban, collective-farms and State farms had supplied the army and the country with food without any serious hitch. "This", Stalin said, "was evidence of the strength and vitality of the collective-farm system and the patriotism of collective-farm peasantry."

The Red Army is steadily liberating regions, territories and republics which had been seized by the German invaders. Constructive work on an immense scale was immediately undertaken in the liberated areas to restore the economic life including co-operative organizations. Collective-farms are rebuilt; co-operative workshops have begun to function again; rural consumers' societies have revived; and co-operative stores, dining rooms, bakeries, etc., have reopened.

The time is not far off when Fascism will be completely destroyed by the United Nations. Soviet economic life will begin to flourish again on a far larger scale than ever; and, with it, the Soviet co-operative movement—powerful development of which has proceeded and will proceed along lines laid down by Lenin and in accordance with the plans and recommendations of Stalin.

LENIN AND SCIENCE

By KRIKOR KOKCHEYEV, *Professor in the Moscow University.*

VLADIMIR LENIN, the first head of the Soviet Government and one of the most learned men of his day, placed a very high value on science in the life of the socialist state. It was his opinion that all the branches of national economy and the whole culture of the land of Soviets should be built up on the solid foundation of science. Lenin consistently and persistently put to practice his views regarding the leading role of science in the country where, in every way, life was being rebuilt in accordance with new principles.

The thunder of the Civil War in the huge expanses of Russia had not died away before beginnings of the future gigantic scientific institutes were laid down in Moscow and Petrograd. The little chemical laboratory founded by E. L. Karpov moved from its small room in Krivokolenny Pereulok in Moscow to the splendid four-storey building provided by the Soviet Government. In the outskirts of Moscow the institute of thermotechnics, institute of electricity and the central sero and hydro-dynamic institutes were founded. In 1921, Lenin personally participated in the establishment of new institutions—the institute of labour and a number of other institutions. In the suburbs of Petrograd, Professors of Physics, actively supported by the Soviet Government, established the physico-technical institute from which a number of laboratories and institutes later sprang up, and where large contingents of Soviet Physicists and physico-chemists received their training. The country was ruined by seven years of war, at first against Germans; then against our own reactionaries and interventionists who tried to turn back the wheels of history. Every gold rouble was taken into account but Lenin did not grudge money for science, and newborn institutes bought the necessary equipment abroad.

"ACADEMIC" RATION

At the height of the Civil War, when even people of the biggest cities received a very small bread ration, the Council of People's Commissars, on a proposal made personally by its chairman, set up a central commission to improve the living conditions of scientists. All scientists were supplied with what is known as "academic" ration. On instruction from Lenin special rest homes and sanatoriums were established for scientists. In the former palace of the Grand Duke Vladimir on the banks of Neva in Petrograd and in mansion of the Merchant Konshina—on one of the best streets in Moscow—institutions of a new type, such as do not exist in any other country, were set up—"scientists' houses" (that is, scientists' clubs).

In Petrograd in 1920, there was nothing in the houses and every kilogram of bread or meat, every ream of printing paper, was strictly accounted for.

Prior to the establishment of the commission to improve scientists' living conditions, Lenin passed a decree through the Council of People's Commissars to make possible the work of Ivan Pavlov, the great Russian scientist. Lenin took care even of such trifles, so important at that time (1920), namely, the heating of the Pavlov Laboratory and the supply of animals and equipment. He ordered the state publishers to publish Academician Pavlov's works on the "best paper available" in Russian and foreign languages.

Lenin was a lawyer by training, and systematically studied social and natural sciences, philosophy and technics. He worked long and determinedly in exile in Geneva and Krakov and when banished to distant Siberia, where his relatives sent him scientific works. And even in prison, where he made use of original sources, he wrote his comprehensive research, "Development of capitalism in Russia."

He devoted considerable attention to philosophy, natural sciences and theoretical physics. During the latter half of 1908 Lenin went specially to London for a month in order to work in the British Museum. Even during the last years of his life when he was guiding intricate affairs of the young state, he found time, for scientific work. In the library of the Rumyantsev Museum—largest in the U.S.S.R.—notes from Lenin have been preserved wherein he asked for books he needed.

CIENTIFIC PLAN

Vladimir Lenin was fully aware of the role of science in building up the state of a new type. He often said and insisted that "science should really become a part of flesh and blood really and completely become a component element of life."

When Lenin turned to the transformation of the backward national economy of Tsarist Russia he put forward the idea of electrification as new to modern technical foundation for industry, transport and agriculture. On the initiative and under the leadership of Lenin, the State Commission for Electrification of Russia, to which he drew the leading Russian scientists and engineers, drew up, towards the end of 1920, a plan for the reconstruction of the whole national economy of the country unequalled in scope and boldness. This plan was more than fulfilled and socialist economy was built up in the U.S.S.R. under the leadership of Joseph Stalin. Lenin's faith in science and its possibilities has been completely vindicated. Science in the Soviet state became the foundation of the whole national economy and the whole socialist culture.

MY MEETINGS WITH LENIN

By PROFESSOR SERGEI DOBROCHAEV, *Director of Speech and Physiology Laboratory, Academy of Sciences, U.S.S.R.*

VLADIMIR ILYICH LENIN who was himself a great scholar and statesman, always showed the greatest concern for the development of arts and sciences in the Soviet Union. He sponsored a great many government measures beneficial to the progress of scientific thought and growth of research institutions. Lenin's attention to the progress of Soviet science did not slacken even during his serious illness.

I lived in Gorky near Moscow from May 1923 to Lenin's death, and, as his personal physician, had occasion to be in daily contact with him. During that period I frequently observed his reaction to various social and political events which continued to interest him throughout his last illness.

I was introduced to Lenin by Professor V. Kramer, a neurologist, who said, among other things, that I was a pupil of Ivan Pavlov. On hearing this Lenin became more animated. His wife, Nadezhda Krupskaya, later explained to me that Lenin had a very high opinion of Pavlov's work, and on one occasion he saw to it that the Council of People's Commissars allotted a considerable sum of money to the scientist for new equipment and the upkeep of animals used in experiments. That was why Lenin brightened up when he learnt that I was a pupil of Pavlov's. He displayed the same attitude whenever I mentioned Academician Pavlov.

SCIENCE AND THE STATE

During his illness Lenin continued to show interest in the latest scientific achievements in the Soviet Union, as well as in the scientific conferences taking place both in this country and abroad. He was particularly gladdened by successes in the field of industrial and agricultural sciences.

A few years before his illness Lenin drew up a "draft plan of scientific and technical work" dealing with research activity of the Academy of Sciences. Soviet scientists were presented with important problems concerning rational spread of industry throughout Russia, building big enterprises, electrification, agriculture, etc. Twenty years ago Lenin's genius foresaw what a great part science would play in the life of the country. The wisdom of this has been revealed to all, now that the Soviet Union is waging war against Nazi aggression.

Lenin showed great interest in the All-Union Agricultural Exhibition opened in Moscow in 1923. He insisted on a trip to the exhibition despite the objections of physicians and visited the main pavillions where the newest Soviet-built machines and the latest achievements in scientific organization of agriculture were on display.

AN UNDYING SOURCE OF INSPIRATION

By SERGEI MERKUROV, *People's Sculptor of the U.S.S.R. and Stalin Prize Winner.*

I write these lines on a wintry January evening of 1944 in my home—a cottage in the woods near Moscow which had come into my possession by Lenin's special order right after the Revolution. Outside my window I can see tops of olden pines swaying to and fro.

There is none here to disturb my peace. My assistants, young Soviet sculptors, having completed their daily task have gone home, and, through the open door, I can see my large studio pervaded by tense silence.

And I am thinking of the man so everlastingly dear to my heart: of Vladimir Lenin, the greatest friend of all of us who gave his life's service to the modern Soviet art.

Vladimir Lenin! In my long creative life as a Russian artist I feel so much connected with Lenin that I can think of him only as a living man.

I recall the times when I had met and spoken to Lenin in Zurich, Switzerland and then in Moscow. On the Red Square amidst a turbulent sea of people. I recollect his simple, sincere and vivid speech. I can still see him standing there with one arm impetuously stretched forward, and his slightly screwed up eyes piercing into the dazzling brilliance of the future happiness of the newly-born Russia.

I remember him in his study in Moscow, in the Kremlin, where, soon after the Revolution, he—founder and head of the Soviet State—spoke to us sculptors and artists of the new tasks facing the Russian art which henceforth was to serve wide masses of people who, with all their soul, earned to imbibe culture.

Lenin spoke of the part which art was to play in the life of the Russian people —of graphic arts, painting and sculpture and cinema; and of great educational value of art in the life of the new state.

This talk and the subsequent decree signed by Lenin, according to which the monuments of outstanding public men were to be erected, laid the corner stone for that new movement in art, which, after many years of strife between various trends has emerged on the road of triumphant socialist realism.

Although overburdened with the affairs of the state, Lenin still found time constantly to take an active part in the life and activities of Russian artists. On one occassion he had summoned me and asked questions which showed a personal interest in the life of every artist. He was interested in artist's life down to every trifle. He asked our advice as to how to give assistance to artists in order to facilitate their work, and, there and then, issued adequate instructions to Anatoly Lunacharsky, then People's Commissar for Education.

INTEREST IN ART

Up to the last days of his life Lenin took a deep interest in the life of men connected with Soviet art. And when he departed from our midst we were smitten with a grief too poignant to express in words. It was unbearable to think that we will never again set eyes on our dear friend.

From then on we lent ourselves to the task of recreating Lenin's image and immortalising his noble features.

The demand for busts, statues and memorials of Lenin—that unforgettable teacher and leader—has been and still is truly tremendous in the Soviet Union. Two million works of sculpture—a number unparalleled in the history of art—portray Lenin and have been distributed among the people. Still, artistic work on the image of Lenin continues and will continue in the future.

It has been my good fortune to create two huge statues of two great people of our age, Vladimir Lenin and Joseph Stalin who so brilliantly continues Lenin's work.

Two statues have been erected at the entrance to the canal joining the waters of the Volga and the Moskva rivers near the town of Kalinin which was formerly called Tver. Two images of Lenin and Stalin, each thirty-two meters high, were created in three months and a half with five thousand workers and 670 highly qualified granite hewers partaking in the construction.

Colossal stones have gone to the making of these monuments, while heads were chiselled from hundred ton monoliths. The Ukrainian granite, incorporated in each monument, filled twenty-four trains. My workshop, where masses of granite were being hewed, stretched one kilometer along the bank of the Moscow Sea. Locomotives and huge barges were used for transport from the studio to the plot of ground selected for the monuments.

To-day, these two figures rise proudly over the Moscow Sea where the Volga and the Moskva rivers meet. The Nazi barbarians did not reach this place. Their advance was stemmed by the Soviet troops who afterwards pushed the enemy far to the west from these parts.

Apart from these statues I have executed a number of sculptures of Lenin, among them being a statue of polished granite for the World Fair in New York.

At present I am continuing my work on the statue of Lenin which will crown the Palace of Soviets in Moscow. This responsible and highly gratifying task had been entrusted to me several years ago.

The war has not served as an impediment to progress. A noble patriotic spirit embraces all the peoples in the Soviet Union and, in these days of the great patriotic war muses speak louder than ever. Art continues to develop and flourish on the stage, in the concert halls and in the studios of painter and sculptor: art which reflects our epic struggle against Nazi Germany.

PALACE OF THE SOVIETS

The project of the Palace of Soviets, which will be one of the greatest edifices of our time, is also being elaborated. The building will be lavishly adorned with sculptures of all kind. The figure of Lenin, to which I am at present devoting a good deal of my time, will be a hundred meters high, its head alone will approximately equal the size of a five-storey building. These tremendous dimensions presuppose a definite treatment of sculptural forms which, in this case, border on an architectural design.

In regard to the choice of materials for the colossal statue, I am greatly assisted by one of the country's scientific research institutes where metals and other materials are tested.

Twenty years ago—it was on a frosty January night like this—that I saw Vladimir Lenin for the last time. I arrived in Gorky in the middle of night, and was confronted with the grievous task of taking the death mask from his infinitely dear features. I remember that night to the last detail —my hands trembled and tears dimmed my vision.

"You wanted to make a bust of him and he never had the time to sit for it . . . Now it is his death mask"—were the words that came from the lips of Lenin's widow, the late Nadezhda Krupskaya.

Thus twenty years ago we lost one of the greatest men that ever lived. We will never recover from the shock of this great bereavement.

Yet the thoughts of Lenin make me look into the future, and I can envisage the time when the murder cars of Nazi Germany and all the ghastly misdeeds—before which shades of Attila and his huns pale—will sink into oblivion, never to return. And the criminals from Hitler's gang will be paid justly according to their deserts.

Then, in sun rays in the Soviet capital the Palace of Soviets will rise and above it the image of Vladimir Lenin—immortal, even as his name is, among the people to whom he had indicated the road to happiness.

The *New York Times* has published a dialogue between a German father and his son in which the father tries to explain these terms which are puzzling many Germans. Here is the dialogue.

"Papa" said little Siegfried, "What is elastic defence?"

"Elastic defence, my child." replied Herr Lebensraum, "is when you run for your life."

"And what," continued the inquisitive child, "is elastic defence in depth?"

"That my son, is when you run for your life and crawl down a hole."

"And flexible operations, what are they, Papa?"

"Flexible operations, little Seigfried, are when your centre is giving way, your right is pushed back, the enemy is all over the place, and you don't know what to do."

THE BRITISH FORGET TOO EASILY

By NOEL COWARD

I HAVE just returned from a tour of North Africa and the Middle East. Within three months I have been to Gibraltar, Oran, Algiers, Malta, Sicily, Egypt, Syria, Palestine, Iraq, and Tripolitania. I have visited more than fifty hospitals and convalescent camps and talked to many, many thousands of sick and wounded men. In all these journeyings I have been the guest either of the Navy, the Army, or the Air Force; I have been conveyed hither and thither in a startling variety of ships, aircraft, cars, lorries and trucks. I have never actually travelled in a tank, but on one occasion I had a narrow shave.

I have seen a great deal, one way and another, and I have learned a great deal too, much more than I would have believed possible in so short a time. To describe what I have seen would be comparatively easy, but to describe what I have learned would be far more difficult. For what I have learned concerns the quality and spirit of our men in the Fighting Forces, and it seems to me that any civilian, however professionally articulate he may be, who tries to express in words this quality and this spirit must tread very warily indeed. Because inadvertently he might either understate or over-decorate something that is infinitely complex and at the same time utterly simple; something that is peculiar to the men to whom it belongs; something above all that any outsider must approach with discretion, reverence, and profound humility.

INDIAN TROOPS IN ITALY.—An Indian Bren gunner giving covering fire while a section of Indian troops dashes forward through demolished buildings under heavy fire.

CHEERFUL CAPACITY FOR SACRIFICE

I shall try to convey to you a little of this attitude of mind, this cheerful capacity for sacrifice that I have noted in all the men I have talked to. If I fail, and, as I feel very strongly about it, I probably shall, I assure you that my failure will be from excess of zeal rather than lack of sincerity.

The last time I was heard on the air was on July 19, the night before I left England. On that occasion, as some of you may remember, I sang a new song I had written called *Don't let's be beastly to the Germans.* This, I have heard since, caused considerable confusion in the minds of some people who must either have an inadequate knowledge of the English language, or were unable to believe the evidence of their own ears. *Don't let's be beastly to the Germans* was a satire, and as vitriolic and bitter a satire as I could well make it.

It was a satire on a trend of thought that I felt was once more beginning to spread in the muddled minds of our moralists and sentimentalists; a trend of thought infinitely dangerous to the future of our country and our Empire; a trend of thought that flourished to such an extent after the last war that it caused us not only to forgive our enemies, but even to forget the men who had defended us from them. I am not alluding to the dead; sentimentalists always remember the dead with garlands and monuments, but they are very prone to forget the living, especially if the living happen to be a reproach to their consciences. This I hasten to affirm is not a satire.

As I said before, I have seen a great deal during these last three months: abandoned battle areas in the desert; the bombed streets and harbours of Malta; historic beaches in Sicily where the Allied troops made the first landing of European invasion. I have seen large convoys, which only a short year ago would have been subjected to merciless and incessant bombardment, steaming unmolested through the Mediterranean. I have seen the town of Tripoli still reeking faintly of dusty Italian pride, its grandiose modern buildings looking rather sorry for themselves as though the Empire Exhibition were closed for the season, and they were just waiting to be demolished.

I have seen many of those North African harbours where the masts and funnels of sunken ships just show above the surface of the water. I have seen remnants of desert camps littered with useless bits of rusting machinery and wire. Places whose names last year were so constantly in our minds—Benghazi, Tobruk, Hell-fire Pass, Knightsbridge, El Adem, etc., etc., set for ever in history and now settling peacefully back into the sand.

HEAT WAVE CONTRAST

I have also seen, when I was in Shiba in Iraq, a month-old English newspaper. Now Shiba is an isolated desert airfield not far from the Persian Gulf, and the newspaper gave a dramatic account of the heat-wave that was ravaging our island; the temperature I believe rose

IN CENTRAL ITALY.—A wounded officer carries on during the battle.

to 85 degrees. While I was reading this the temperature was 122 in the shade and the station commandant had already congratulated me because I arrived on a cool day.

As far as entertainment is concerned, Iraq has been very much neglected. It is a long way away and the men there have no military forces to fight, but they are up against less spectacular and far more subtle enemies—climate, fever, home-sickness, and boredom. With the exception of a few small ENSA parties whose continued tours of these difficult areas should be a source of great pride to the theatrical profession, they have had nothing. The principal film showing in Baghdad when I was there was *King Kong*.

Only one big star of our profession has visited them, but then, she has been everywhere. No journey has been too long for her, and no conditions too difficult—I refer to Alice Delysia. I saw her in Beirut looking younger and more charming than ever, and I can only assume that the immense amount of happiness and pleasure she has brought to hundreds and thousands of our troops during the last two years, must have recoiled on her like a boomerang and given her perpetual gaiety and youth.

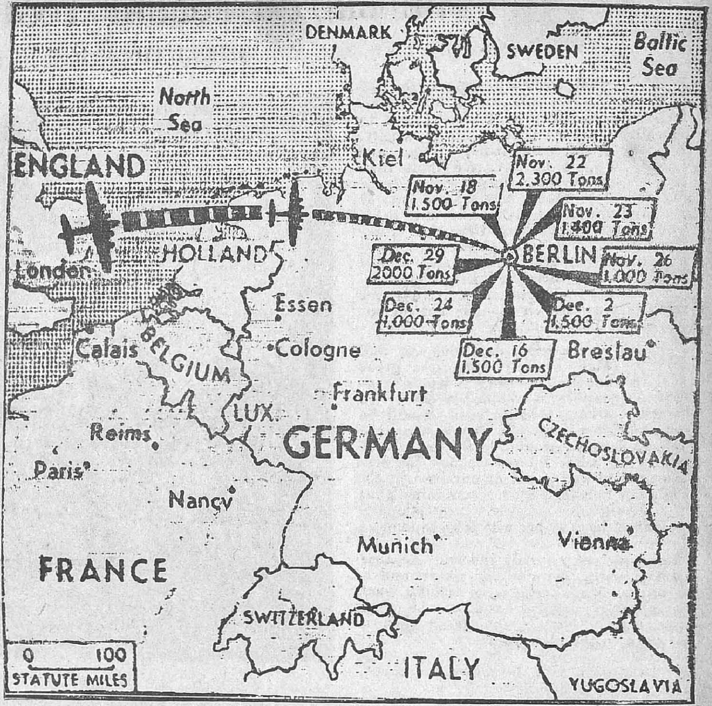
MEN ARE METICULOUSLY CARED FOR

For the reassurance of those of my listeners whose sons, husbands, brothers, or sweethearts have been wounded or are ill in hospitals abroad, I want to say a little about the quality and efficiency of these hospitals, particularly those in the desert. There, where conditions are inevitably extremely difficult, the men are most meticulously cared for. The matrons and nursing staff manage—heaven knows how—to look fresh and cool in the most trying circumstances.

The medical staffs, the surgeons and the doctors all have appalling difficulties to surmount, but calmly and efficiently they take them all in their stride, and we at home, if anyone we love happens to be in their care, have, believe me, so very, very much to thank them for.

What I really learned, however, from going through these hospitals was taught me quite unconsciously by the men themselves, and it is a lesson that I do not intend to forget until the end of my days. I saw many harrowing sights and many physical horrors—you cannot go through ward after ward of battle casualties without doing so—but, among all these sick and wounded men lying in various stages of pain and discomfort, I only found one whose morale was really low, and he, poor fellow, had just had his tonsils out.

I have talked to men who have had limbs amputated; men who have lain for many weary months encased in plaster; men with their legs hoisted up on pulleys; men who have been so badly burned that they have to lie for many hours a day in saline baths; men paralysed in iron lungs only just able to move their heads. One of these who had been in his iron lung for about eight months, had his wife's photograph struck on to the ceiling just above him, so that he could smile at her quite easily.



The Allied campaign to erase Berlin continued with the R.A.F.'s 2,000-ton bombing on December 29. The boxes in the above map give the dates and the estimated tonnage (in long-tons) of bombs dropped in a recent series of attacks. The total weight of bombs falling on Germany in 1943 stands at 134,400 long-tons. This map was radioed from New York to India.

Another man whom I spoke to in a hospital in Malta had had a leg shot away in Sicily, and had also been badly machine-gunned all up his right side. I asked about Sicily and what he thought of it: he said: 'The Germans were all right, and the Ities were all right, but the mosquitoes were bloody awful.' I do hope that the pure in heart will forgive the use of this household word; it was the word he used, and I feel that what is good enough for him is good enough for anybody.

I could continue for hours to tell you anecdotes and stories of these men, and each anecdote and each story would show a little more of their humour, their integrity and their greatness. Before I stop I want so very, very urgently to make one thing clear to you. We are a fine race, and contrary to some opinions, a fairly imaginative one; but we have one grave defect, and that is that we forget too easily. What I want to make clear to you is, that we owe a debt to these men of our Fighting Forces that can never be fully paid and must never, never be forgotten.

PRETTY UNCOMFORTABLE PERIOD

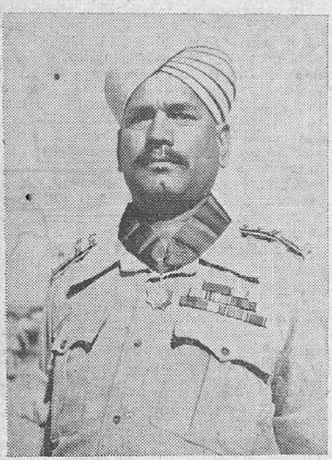
The aftermath of this war with its reconstruction difficulties, and its inevitable political and economic changes, will be, as we are all aware, a pretty uncomfortable period for all of us. But however uncomfortable it is, and however frustrated we may feel at being unable to get back as soon as we had hoped to the easy ways of peace, and the pursuit of our personal ambitions, these discomforts and frustrations can be nothing compared with what our fighting men have endured and are enduring now for us, and for the future of everything we believe in.

I hope you will forgive me if in this you discern a faintly lecturing tone. I apologise for this socially but without humility; all my humility is reserved for these men I have been talking to you about. They have given me quite unknowingly something that is difficult to describe. I think perhaps the word 'pride' covers it—immense pride in belonging to a race that can produce out of so much chaos and suffering such unfailing patience, gentleness, endurance, humour, and shining courage.

If, in the future, any of us—either individually or in unions or political parties—do anything to let down these men and all they have endured for us, I can only say that it will be to our eternal, everlasting shame. (*A recent B.B.C. talk*)

THIRTY-THREE YEARS' UNBROKEN SERVICE

PROUD RECORD OF SUBEDAR-MAJOR BHOLA SINGH



SUBEDAR-MAJOR BHOLA SINGH RECEIVES O.B.I. (FIRST CLASS) —Picture shows: *The proud Subedar-Major Bhola Singh, Sardar Bahadur, after the presentation. The Subedar-Major's home is at village Badli, near Delhi.*

"I am happy to be able to make this presentation to Subedar-Major BHOLA SINGH, SARDAR BAHADUR, of the first class of the Order of British India, and I congratulate him most heartily on behalf of the Major-General R.A. and of all the ranks of the Royal Artillery and Indian Artillery," said Brigadier G. de V. Welchman, D.S.O., O.B.E., as he decorated a proud Subedar-Major recently.

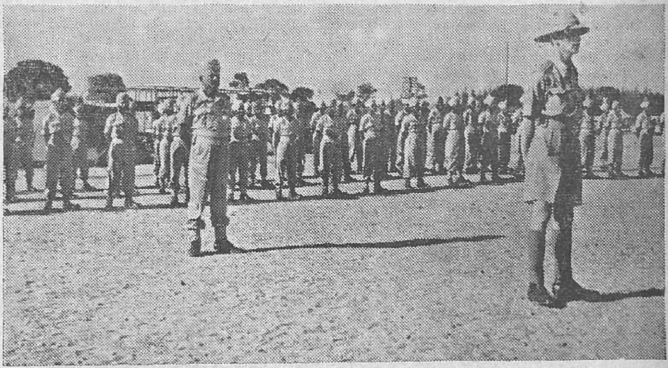
As Subedar-Major BHOLA SINGH, O.B.I., whose home is at village BADLI, ROHTAK DISTRICT, near DELHI, looks back upon his service of thirty-three years with the Indian Army he sees a record of which any soldier may be proud.

Coming of an old established military family he is one of the real pioneers of Artillery Survey in India. His service in the Army dates back to 1911 when he joined the Indian Cavalry. Four years later he was trained and qualified as a Surveyor at Roorkee. In 1924, with eight other officers and ranks he was selected to form the Artillery Survey Section at Kakul.

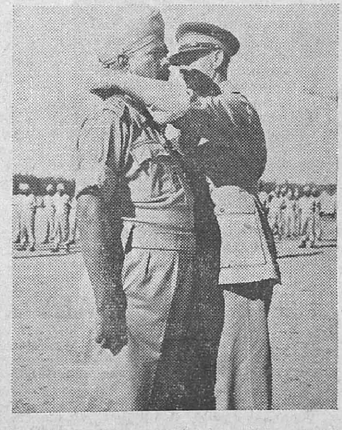
When war broke out in 1939 Subedar-Major BHOLA SINGH was due to retire but was unwilling to do so. At his own request he was recommended by his Commanding Officer for extension of service till 1940. This was granted and July 1941 found him with the rank of Subedar (Hon. Subedar-Major) in a training centre whence he was later transferred to an Indian Survey Battery. The Battery was expanded into an Indian Survey Regiment. BHOLA SINGH was appointed Subedar-Major.

Years of service at home, on the Frontier, in Mesopotamia, have given BHOLA SINGH the authority of the veteran. He has watched over his Survey Regiment as it has grown from section to troop, from troop to battery, from battery to regiment. His technical and administrative efficiency are universally respected. To his family of soldiers he is strictly impartial, dealing out justice with even hand to Hindu, Sikh and Mussalman.

Proud of his collection of medals—he has eleven—Subedar-Major BHOLA SINGH is proudest of all of his most recent decoration—a symbol of unbroken loyalty and devoted service.



Picture shows *Subedar-Major Bhola Singh standing at ease before the regimental parade before being presented with the O.B.I. (First Class).*



Picture shows *Brigadier G. de V. Welchman, D.S.O., O.B.E., presenting the O.B.I. (First Class) to Subedar-Major Bhola Singh while the Indian Survey Regiment is drawn up in parade in the background.*

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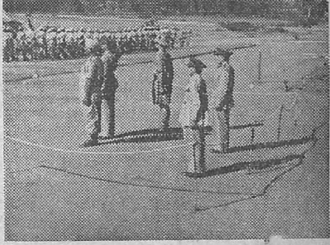


Picture shows *Brigadier G. de V. Welchman, D.S.O., O.B.E., taking the salute as the Regiment marches past after the presentation. On the Brigadier's left stands Subedar-Major Bhola Singh. The rest of the group are the O.C. Regiment, Major B. J. Williams and Brigadier A. J. D. Ronald.*

ALLIED ACHIEVEMENTS

By EDWARD MONTGOMERY

THE year 1943 has been a year of great achievements, no less in the political than in the military field. The year which has just ended has seen an almost unbroken record of military successes for the United Nations and of military setbacks for their enemies. On the East European front in Russia, the Red Armies, except for occasional checks never of very long duration, have been continuously on the offensive since the beginning of the year. In the closing months of 1942 they were fighting the Germans on the banks of the Volga. As 1944 opens they are fighting well beyond the farside of the Dnieper.

On the South European front the British and American armies have cleared North Africa of the enemy, cleared the Mediterranean sea route by an invasion and capture of Sicily and knocked Germany's principal European ally, Italy, out of the war and conquered a third of the Italian mainland.

In the air Allied air forces, based on Britain, co-ordinating American daylight bombing tactics with British night bombing technique, have inflicted an immense damage on the German industrial base, not only in Germany itself, but in the occupied territories, and the damage is directly affecting Germany's capacity to wage war.

In the war at sea, British and American naval and air forces, working together in the closest harmony and collaboration, have reduced the menace of the U-boat to negligible proportions. This is perhaps the most important single military achievement of the whole war so far as Britain and America are concerned, for upon the success against U-boats directly depended their ability to bring their armies and air forces, adequately supplied and equipped, into action against the enemy in Europe.

On the political side, the record of achievements has been no less brilliant. In a war of coalition, especially when several great powers are involved as allies, the most difficult problem is maintaining political unity of purpose and co-ordination of each national effort.

A long period of patient and painstaking work towards the achievement of this unity and co-ordination was crowned triumphantly in a series of conferences which took place in the latter part of the year, beginning with those between the three Foreign Ministers in Moscow in October and followed by those in Cairo and Teheran where Churchill and Roosevelt met first Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek to discuss war in Asia, and then conferred with Marshal Stalin to reach a complete agreement upon co-ordination of policy and strategy between the three great allies in their war against Germany and her satellites in Europe.

The first fruits of the agreements reached in those conferences has been seen in the announcement of the appointment of military commanders of British and American forces for the invasion of Europe, appointments which have been enthusiastically approved by all sections of opinion in Britain.

But viewed in retrospect, all these political and military achievements of the last year, brilliant as they have been, can all be seen as a preparation for the much greater and arduous task which lies ahead.

GURKHAS IN ITALY.—The steep hills in Italy which are now wet and muddy do not worry the sturdy little Gurkha troops.

GURKHAS IN THEIR ELEMENT IN ITALY

THE "motorized Gurkha," after several years in the desert, has not lost his "hill legs" and has taken to the mountains of Italy as easily as he adapted himself to the sands of Egypt and Libya.

An officer with the Eighth Indian Division describes how the Gurkhas fought in the first action in which the men of the Fifth Royal Gurkha Rifles (F.F.) met German troops on the snow-covered slopes of Central Italy.

The initial task allotted to the battalion was a flanking moment on an enemy force holding up the remainder of the division.

The C.O. and a number of officers were wounded in the heavy shelling and mortar fire which met the advance. Nevertheless, the attack was successfully pushed home and the Gurkhas received the compliments of both division and corps commanders "for their speed and endurance" in the hills.

The biggest difficulty for the officers was in restraining the enthusiasm of the men after the assault was unleashed. The Gurkhas tore into the German positions with their bayonets and kukris.

"They were having the time of their lives winkling fat Jerries out of barns and 'hotting up' the less mobile ones with a burst or two of tommy-gun," the officer said.

There were numerous feats of individual courage and initiative. One particularly critical situation, when the main weight of an enemy counter-attack fell on the key platoon, was saved by a surprise charge put in by L/Naik Bhagatabahadur Thapa. Almost out of ammunition, he let the enemy get to within 20 yards of his post and then, drawing his kukri, fell on them and broke up the attack.

Another youngster, Rifleman Lankhu Pun, was wounded in the shoulder while acting as scout for an advanced patrol.

"He went straight in with the bayonet, killed his assailant and put the others to flight. He refused to allow his wound to be attended to until after the recce and then applied his own field dressing and insisted on remaining in the firing line."

Typical of the morale of the battalion, writes the officer, was the reaction of the Subadar-Major when informed that his son, Naik Balbahadur Gurung, had been killed at his post.

"Nothing matters but the name of the battalion," he said when the news was broken to him.

WHAT? WHEN? WHERE?

—*Specially drawn for the* MADRAS WAR REVIEW.

JAP RAID ON RANGOON—EXPERIENCES OF AN EVACUEE

By C. S. BUSHANAM

An interesting eye-witness's account of the Japanese raid on Rangoon two years ago is given by Mr. C. S. Bushanam, formerly Honorary Magistrate of Rangoon Town District, in the following radio talk recently broadcast from Madras.

IT was on the 23rd December 1941 that Rangoon was first bombed by the Japanese. Why did the Japanese bomb it? How did they succeed? What was the part played by the Royal Air Force and by the American Volunteer Group? I shall try to answer these questions in the light of my personal knowledge and experience of over forty years in Burma.

I may say that Burma is the land of my adoption. I have learnt to love her so well. It was a land of sunshine and smiles, of granery and gold—that is, before the War. I set foot on Rangoon when I was but 6 years of age. Then it was but a modest town. But all the same it was cosmopolitan. Its roads, avenues water-supply, sanitation and other amenities deserve mention. Subsequently, the Municipality was succeeded by the Rangoon Corporation. The Rangoon Development Trust which took the place of the Town Land Reclamation Works reclaimed many suburban areas and brought them in line with the town. A number of slums were converted into beautiful residential quarters. Long, wide and parallel roads came into existence. Ornamental buildings adorned the roads on either side. It had an excellent harbour. It was a port of call for ocean-going vessels. Wharves and jetties were newly constructed on most modern lines. The beauty of the harbour was consequently improved. To add to these, the magnificent building of the Port Commissioners' Office was also newly built. Rangoon was the capital of Burma. People from far off lands had migrated into it. Burma's natural resources were ample. Hills and plains provided good varieties for trade. Foreign capital and labour poured in. India's contribution in these respects was not meagre. The Railways and the Inland Shipping developed a network of communications. Golden Pagodas, hills and dales, fields and rivers and the charming lakes were a few of the important features of Burma. Timely rains and favourable climatic conditions made the vast acreage yield excellent harvest. It was far in excess of Burma's requirements. A very large quantity was exported to India and other countries. Most of the rivers were navigable. Riverine stations at suitable centres rendered the transport problem easy. Wealth and Health improved. Did the Goddess of Wealth and Health choose this beauty spot for a favourite shrine? It seemed so.

TRIBUTE TO R.A.F. AND A.V.G.

The small but sharp eyes of the Japs took a long range at this Land of Plenty. Burma was strategically important for carrying out their ambitious programme of World-conquest. Fortune also seemed to favour them. The British Forces were then engaged in a life-and-death struggle against the Germans elsewhere. It was indeed an opportunity for the Japs. Their itching palm extended. But, they could not have so easy a sway as they anticipated. The small but strong Royal Air Force and the American Volunteer Group that were in Rangoon gave them battle for long. They kept the invaders sufficiently off, by driving them whenever they made their appearance.

On the fateful 23rd December 1941, it was a Tuesday—I was standing on the Bar Street jetty waiting for my boat to carry me across the river. For, I was a Stevedore and therefore my contact with the harbour was very frequent. I had a large labour force, both Burmans and Indians, in my service. It was about ten in the morning. The sun was fairly high up, in his resplendant glory. Everything was bright and normal. A strange noise was heard. It was distinct and it came from the sky. I looked up. I could not see anything at first. A few seconds passed. There appeared a speck. It moved nearer and nearer. Its speed was enormous. It was a formation of enemy planes. They were coming from the West. Those around me also noticed them. Just then, the Port siren peeled forth its wail, from the tower of the Port Commissioner's office. I at once asked those around me to take shelter. I wanted to rush down to my office. So, I hastened to my car. It was about five minutes drive. My office was in 49th Street. I reached it. I thought that I was safe there. The noise of the planes was heard at close quarters. A huge thud and an explosion followed. Most of the glass panes in my office building were shattered to pieces. I thought I was caught in the mesh. I took courage in my hands and descended the staircase. On my left I had the First Aid Post across the Dalhousie street, and on the right the St. Phillips Church. Which way was safer? A knotty problem at a risky moment! Involuntarily, my legs took me towards the Church. I am a Hindu, not a Christian, but all the same I take it for a providential dispensation. For if I had turned the other side, I would not be here to-day talking to you. The Priest of the Church had a trench dug out, in the Church compound. His family and a few others had already taken refuge in it. I joined them. Again and again, I heard the violent sound of bomb explosion. The St. Phillips School in the Church compound was hit by a bomb and was on fire. It burnt furiously. It was at a very close range. So we found ourselves in a tight corner. The burning school emitted enormous smoke. It would have encircled us in the trench very easily, but for the massive masonry structure of the Church. Fortunately the wind was carrying off the smoke farther right. My thoughts flew to my home. My family were nearly six miles away from me. I had taken them to Thingangyun only a couple of days earlier.

VICTIMS OF THE RAID

In about half an hour, the commotion ceased. I crept out of the dug-out. Roads were mostly deserted. Cables and wires displaced from the telegraph and electric posts were lying across and along the roads. The electric installation seemed to be out of action. Here and there some essential service personnel were at work. Labourers, peddlers, vendors, rickshaw-pullers and such others were taken unawares. Many of the victims of the bombing and others who were machine-gunned at close quarters, by the so-called 'redeemers of the Asiatic countries' were being carried. Most horrifying were the stretcher-cases. People with maimed limbs and bleeding wounds, some of them ghastly, were being carried to the First Aid Post close-by. I wondered why these poor innocents should have formed the 'military objective' of the aggressive Japanese.

Listeners may remember that this was the first raid on Burma. It roused the curiosity of the ignorant. They peeped out of the windows, and they too formed the Jap targets! And the Japs did not miss such obvious marks. Machine-guns were used ruthlessly. The havoc wrought was enormous.

I will be failing in my duty if I do not pay here a deserved compliment to the splendid work done by the selfless band of medical men and their enthusiastic assistants as well as by the Voluntary A.R.P. Organizations.

Though the Jap aircraft were numerically strong, yet it was a matter for great credit that the Royal Air Force and the American Volunteer Group were able to bring down a good number of them.

On Christmas day, the 25th December 1941, at about noon, I was at Thingangyun when I heard the alert. Immediately I rushed with my family into the shelter I had already built up in my Bungalow compound. Nothing took place in Thingangyun. But the Japanese aircraft were busy at work over West Rangoon. I could only hear them. Of-course the A.A. Guns also were thundering incessantly. The R.A.F. and the A.V.G. rose equal to the occasion and drove off the Japs with heavy losses, although the aggressors managed to drop a few bombs in the short time they flew over West Rangoon. The Dufferin hospital for women was one of the several buildings hit on that day. This time people who had gained experience of the previous raid, took shelter in time.

GIANT JAP BOMBER COMES TO GRIEF

During January 1942 we had a series of day and night raids on Rangoon. One night on hearing an alarm we took shelter in a trench sometime after midnight. The roaring noise of planes and guns was loudly heard. There was a sudden flare and explosion in the pitch darkness. It was the tragic end of a giant Japanese Bomber. We in the trench felt as if a bomb or wreckage was falling over our heads. It actually crashed and fell in a paddy field two miles away from our trench.

Early during the course of the war, I offered to serve the A.R.P. I was also an Honorary Magistrate of Rangoon Town district. It was anticipated that martial law would be declared; and to administer the same, I was appointed an Emergency Special Magistrate. I did not have the opportunity to function, as martial law was not declared at all.

I decided to take my family to Madras. So, I secured a fortnight's leave of absence from the District Magistrate of Rangoon. On 3rd February 1942 we joined the large concourse of people awaiting the bus in the Burma Athletic Association Stands. Special lorries were in service taking passengers to the wharf-side. By then, we heard the siren. Immediately we took refuge in the B.A.A. Stands. The Royal Air Force and the American Volunteer Group planes rushed up and the Jap aircraft hastily disappeared. This helped us to reach the wharf-side and take the boat. We reached Calcutta on the 7th February 1942 after four days of voyage beset with ordeals. We left Calcutta by train to Madras. In the meantime, all means of communications to Burma had been cut off; and so, I could not rejoin duty at Rangoon, as I originally intended to do.

In conclusion, I can do no better than quote Mr. Thomas Lewis Hughes, formerly Political Secretary of the Burma Chamber of Commerce and the Chief Liaison Officer to General Alexander, as to the cause of Burma's fall. While addressing the Asian Society last month —3rd November—in London, Mr. Hughes said "Only additional troops, tanks, guns and aeroplanes could have turned the tide."

Now we, evacuees from Burma, are expecting the turn in the tide eagerly. We know that only after Germany is eliminated first, this tide will begin. But we are prepared to wait for the day when we shall return to the land of our adoption, after complete victory is achieved by the United Nations.

"Peterborough," in *the Daily Telegraph*, tells the following :—

Soldiers who have felt a little aggrieved at the freedom with which American troops are able to spend money will enjoy the story I have just heard from India.

An American, having hired a tonga for a distance the ordinary fare for which would be half a rupee, magnanimously handed the driver a 50-rupee note.

The man shook his head violently and demanded 60.

"No." said the American, "that's enough I shan't pay any more."

The Indian thereupon accepted the money and walked away, leaving the tonga and pony with the purchaser.

TURNED THE TABLES ON THE ENEMY

"On the Pacific front we have with a vengeance turned the tables on the enemy. No longer do our gallant airmen in inadequate machines hurl themselves almost barehanded at the enemy. Today we are on the offensive. Our crews, equipped with the most modern types of aircraft—many of them constructed in our own factories—are, with the assistance of our American allies, steadily driving the enemy back towards his lair, where we shall eventually follow and destroy him."

—MR A. S. DRAKEFORD, *the Australian Air Minister, in an article in the R.A.A.F. Magazine* Wings.

WAR DIARY

BRITAIN AND GERMANY

11TH JAN.—German News Agency announced that Nazi Chiefs conferred and discussed the war situation at Berlin yesterday.

The Royal Air Force attacked objectives in Berlin and West and Central Germany last night.

12TH JAN.—A communiqué issued to-day says that 700 United States of America Air Force aircraft attacked important fighter assembly plants in Germany on Tuesday with excellent results. Oschersleben, Halberstadt, Brunswick and other places were heavily bombed.

13TH JAN.—Himmler held a conference at Breslau attended by officials from all parts of Germany. One hundred and fifty German fighters were destroyed when Americans attacked German Aircraft works on Tuesday.

An air raid alert was sounded in London Area to-night for the first time since Jan. 5.

14TH JAN.—In a two-way radio conversation Air Marshal Sir Richard Peck of the Royal Air Force and Lieutenant-General Carl Spaety, Commanding General of the American Strategic Air Forces based in Britain made statements on the daylight raids on Germany.

London was raided by a lonely German bomber.

Berlin was raided by Allied aircraft.

15TH JAN.—Two thousand tons of bombs were dropped last night on Brunswick.

Bombs were dropped by a few enemy raiders in several areas of South-East England and London.

16TH JAN.—It is stated that Mr. Churchill has been recuperating at Marrakest in Morocco. He has now completely recovered. Mr. Churchill met General De Gualle last Wednesday it is revealed.

General Eisenhower has assumed the duties in the United Kingdom assigned to him by the Combined Chiefs of Staff. On his journey from the Mediterranean to the United Kingdom he had a conference with President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill.

17TH JAN.—General Eisenhower met pressmen to-day. Air Chief Marshal Sir Arthur Tedder, Deputy Supreme Commander of Allied Forces under General Eisenhower has arrived in Britain. General O. Bradley has been appointed Commander of the United States Army in the field under General Eisenhower.

18TH JAN.—The Prime Minister Mr. Churchill has returned to London. He told the Commons to-day that he would make a general war statement to the House in the near future. The Prime Minister lunched with the King at Buckingham Palace to-day and discussed with the King all developments in the war situation.

* * *

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND ATLANTIC

11TH JAN.—President Roosevelt sent his annual message to the Congress.

12TH JAN.—The first of the new "Victory" ships which can make a round trip to England with cargo in 21 days, was launched to-day.

The Brazilian War Minister said that a Brazilian Expeditionary force will leave in the first months of this year in order to participate in the invasion of Europe.

President Roosevelt submitted to Congress a proposal to develop the national highway system of approximately 34,000 miles.

13TH JAN.—The Secretary for War, Mr. L. Stimson said that American army casualties in all theatres of war up to Dec. 23 totalled 105,229. This included 16,831 killed, 38,916 wounded, 24,067 missing, 25,415 prisoners of war.

The State Department disclosed on Wednesday that Japan has refused to discuss a third exchange of nationals until a report is received on the treatment of the Japanese interned in the United States.

It is announced that two more German submarines have been sunk in the South Atlantic.

President Roosevelt called for a great victory budget of 100,000 million dollars in his budget message to Congress to-day. This vast sum is the anticipated Federal expenditure for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1945.

Military establishments in American coastal areas are reduced so that soldiers can be sent to overseas.

14TH JAN.—The Director of the United States Budget Bureau told that United States would probably pass the peak of munitions buying in the next six months.

Colonel Frank Knox said "A quick ending of the war is unlikely. Those who wishfully think for an early end are necessarily doing disservice to the war effort."

The House Elections Committee rejected to-day all proposals for a uniform federal ballot for men and women in the armed forces.

15TH JAN.—The President's wife Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt may soon visit India and Chungking.

The United States Vice-President Mr. Henry Wallace condemned the big isolationist businessmen, who not only did not believe in lasting international peace, but would do their best to prevent it by means of propaganda.

17TH JAN.—General Henry H. Arnold, Chief of the United States Army of Army Air Force at a press conference said that Germany will fight to the last ditch.

* * *

INDIA, BURMA AND CEYLON

11TH JAN.—A communiqué from South-East Asia Command Headquarters says: On the west of Mayu range Allied troops have continued to advance and captured a number of points and Maungdaw. On the central front also similar advances have been made. Royal Air Force bombers have maintained their attacks on enemy positions in the Mayu Peninsula.

It is revealed that the army operating against the Japanese on the Assam Front is the fourteenth.

12TH JAN.—The 13th session of the National Defence Council opened this morning at the Viceroy's House, New Delhi. His Excellency the Viceroy presided. Sir J. P. Srivatsava's memorandum on food situation was considered in addition to other items.

13TH JAN.—An enemy aircraft approached Vizagapatam at night and dropped few bombs.

14TH JAN.—The National Defence Council met again to-day. His Excellency the Viceroy presided.

The Allied troops have occupied the villages of Kanyindan and Dilpara, south-east of Maungdaw.

India has spent Rs. 715 crores on her defences from 1939–40 to 1943–44.

15TH JAN.—The National Defence Council met again at New Delhi to-day. His Excellency the Viceroy presided. Admiral Lord Louis Mountbatten made a statement on the organization of the South-East Asia Command. His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief presented a general review of the war situation.

The formation of the South-East Asia Air Command under the Supreme Allied Commander has lead to a change in the organization Air Headquarters, India Command and a restatement of the responsibilities of the Air Officer Commanding, says a press note.

An Indian Army observer gives details of Jap submarine torpedo activity in the high seas and the Jap cruelty to survivors.

Royal Air Force fighters successfully intercepted a large formation of Jap fighters over the Mayu Peninsula.

16TH JAN.—The Commander-in-Chief returned to New Delhi after a five-day visit to Bhopal and Central India.

17TH JAN.—The Allied troops have taken Bagona and Nyaunggyaung near Maungdaw.

18TH JAN.—Their Excellencies Lord and Lady Wavell arrived at Lucknow.

Mr. R. G. Casey, Governor-designate of Bengal, arrived in Karachi.

To-day's South-East Asia Command says that Jap attempts to recapture Nalpannya and Razabil near Maungdaw on 15th and 16th failed and that the enemy airfield at Myitkyina was bombed.

* * *

RUSSIA AND FINLAND

11TH JAN.—Russian troops landed on the northern part of the Kerch Peninsula in the Crimea.

An official statement on Soviet attitude towards Russo-Polish border question was published yesterday.

12TH JAN.—Troops of the First Ukrainian Front crossing the river Slutch, captured Sarny, a large railway junction and the most important enemy strong point in the Polesia region. The Red Army approached Ulanov, 12 miles from the river Bug.

13TH JAN.—Russian troops are within 11 miles of Mozyr, the key to central Pripet Marshes. Tense battles are now in progress in the approaches to three towns of vital importance to the Germans, namely, Shapatovka, Vinnitza and Vitebrsk. Soviet units have penetrated to the northern bank of the Bug.

14TH JAN.—Troops of the White Russian front captured Mozyr and Kalinkovichi. The Russians made a local breach south and south-west of Cherkassy.

15TH JAN.—German divisions are fleeing across Pripet Marshes. German base of Pintsk in Poland is being threatened by the Russian troops. Battle of the Bug river has swung in favour of the Soviet troops. The Red Army made a new landing behind the German lines in the Kerch Peninsula.

16TH JAN.—A new offensive north of Novo Sokolniki has been started. West and north-west of Kalinkovchi, the Red Army occupied a number of inhabited places.

17TH JAN.—It is revealed that Russian units crossed the river Bug on Sunday itself. The Russians continued their attacks north-east of Kerch and north-west of Kirovograd and west of Rechitsa. There was violent fighting south of Leningrad.

The Soviet Government has decided not to negotiate with the Polish Government. The United States has offered to mediate between Poland and Russia.

18TH JAN.—Russian troops are within 13 miles from the German communications Centre Rovno and only eight miles from Novo Sokolniki.

* * *

ITALY, AFRICA AND THE MEDITERRANEAN

11TH JAN.—Allied Naval forces have sunk three schooners in the Adriatic. The Fifth Army are now four miles from Cassino. There was patrol activity on the Eighth Army front.

Count Ciano was shot dead.

12TH JAN.—Troops of the Fifth Army took more heights. Patrols were active on both the fronts. Cassino is in a state of siege. The Fifth Army troops captured Cervaro.

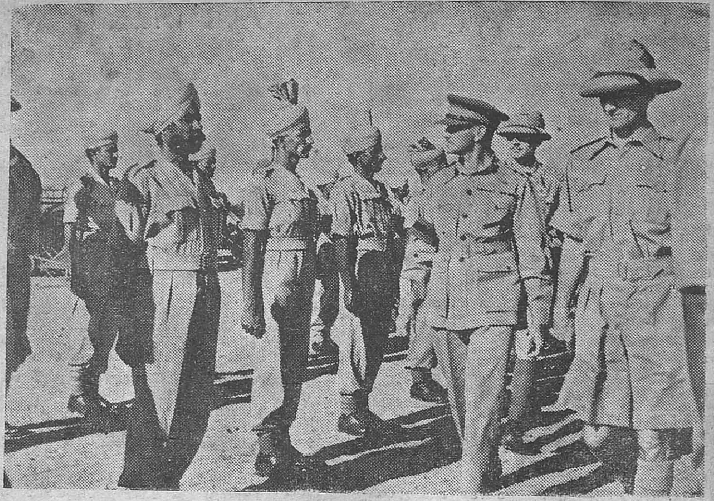
13TH JAN.—French troops of the Fifth Army recaptured Monte Raino and Monte Molino.

14TH JAN.—French and American troops of the Fifth Army continued their drive. On the Eighth Army front Newzealand British troops improved their positions.

15TH JAN.—The Fifth Army's advance continues. Three new heights and the town of Acquafondata were captured. British artillery was active on both the Fifth and Eighth Army fronts.

16TH JAN.—American forces have captured Monte Trocchio ridge 3 miles from Cassino. The French troops captured Cardito. Indian troops are closing in on Tollo.

17TH JAN.—The Fifth Army troops continued their advance. The newly won positions on Monte Trocchio have been consolidated. Forward troops have reached the Rapido river.



Brigadier G. de V. Welchman, D.S.O., O.B.E., inspects the men of the Indian Survey Regiment. On the Brigadier's left is the O.C. Regiment.

18TH JAN.—In the Adriatic coastal sector Canadian troops have made limited advance. Further advances on the Fifth Army front include the capture of San Elia.

* * *

VICHY, FREE FRANCE AND THE OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

11TH JAN.—Military objectives in Northern France were attacked by Allied aircraft.

The Polish Cabinet met twice in London.

12TH JAN.—A state of panic prevails in Bucharest and Rumania in general. The evacuation of Bessarabia is in full swing.

Sofia, Bulgarian capital, is being evacuated.

The Polish Cabinet again met in London.

13TH JAN.—Chaos reigns to-day in Sofia. Rumanian capital Bucharest is also being evacuated.

The Polish Premier, Foreign Minister and Ambassador saw the British Foreign Secretary, Mr. Anthony Eden.

14TH JAN.—The Bulgarian Minister of Interior has ordered the evacuation of Sofia.

The Polish Government has proposed talks with Russia at which the British and the United States Government would take part. The Polish Government met at 10 a.m. and further considered its draft statement on Russo-Polish relationship.

16TH JAN.—Two big forces of Allied planes passed over West Hungary on their way to raid Austria.

THE FAR EAST

11TH JAN.—The United States bombers attacked Kendari in Celebes and other enemy positions.

12TH JAN.—A Japanese landing attempt at Cape Gloucester (New Britain) has been halted. Jap troops trapped in the coastal corridor in New Guinea are being drowned in large numbers. Allied aircraft attacked Madang and Uligan harbour bases. Enemy bombers attacked Tarawa.

Allied bombers attacked Takao in the south-west coast of Formosa on Tuesday. Bangkok was also bombed.

14TH JAN.—Japan will face a big increase in direct taxes in the 1944–45 financial year under a bill to be presented to Diet on January 21.

United States aircraft raided various Jap bases in south-west Pacific including Alestischafen in New Guinea and Rabaul in New Britain.

Australian troops captured Namdariwa. American bombers attacked Macassan on Celebes and Balikpapan in Borneo.

German Ambassador in Tokyo, Herr Heinrich Sthamer had a talk with the Japanese Foreign Minister, Mr. Mamoru Shigemitsu.

16TH JAN.—Australians have reached the outskirts of Sio, the main remaining Jap base on Huon Peninsula.

17TH JAN.—Allied ground forces have taken Sio and advanced 3 miles further to Vricka point. American marines have captured Hill 660, a strategic height in the Borgen Bay area. Allied bombers attacked Rabaul and inflicted heavy damages.

18TH JAN.—The evacuation of big Japanese cities is in full swing. The Ministry of Interior has been meeting to discuss the evacuation of Tokyo and its environs.

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